

her his own and his late wife's jewels, to the general scandal of decent people. Her influence was used with Edward in favour of his younger son the Duke, and against the Black Prince. She was in the habit of attending the law courts to support her friends and overawe the judges like any other great noble, and she possessed herself of money and lands by fair means or foul.¹ She had turned the Abbot of St. Alban's out of a manor, and so won for herself the undying hostility of the principal chronicles of the time which emanated from that monastery. She had better have had one estate less and kept their good report.² An order was now passed in Parliament forbidding women, in particular Alice, to appear in court in support of causes. King Edward was informed that she was married, and that the husband was alive.³ He duly affected horror at the discovery, but would allow no extreme measures to be taken. The further proceedings against her were of a nature suited to the superstition of the age. As it was supposed she was in league with a wizard, who by magic arts kept up the old man's infatuation for her, John Kentwood, member for Berks, and John de la Mare, member for Wiltshire, introduced themselves into the magician's house in disguise, and effected his arrest. The Duke was forced by public opinion to take measures against Alice. He called her before the Lords, where she was made to swear not to approach the King again, under penalty of banishment and confiscation of goods. The Bishops had orders to excommunicate her if she broke this oath ; but she was allowed to remain in England and in possession of her ill-gotten wealth.⁴

It was now time to provide some better government for the ensuing year. It had not been found possible to attack John of G-aunt directly. He had acted as the spokesman of the Lords throughout the Parliament, he had himself condemned Lord Latimer, and summoned Alice Perrers to the bar. He was still the greatest man in England, and would, unless strong measures were taken beforehand, recover the

¹ *Diet* of Nat. Biog.; Feed.*, iii. 989; *Rot. Parl.*, ii. 329 ; *Chron. Ang.*, 9ft.

² *Gtota Abbatum St. Alb. (B.S.)*, iii- 229-30.

³ *Chron. Ang.*, 97 ; *Diet, of Nat. Biog.* ⁴ See Ap